

Title (en)

Satellite communication system utilizing highly inclined, highly elliptic orbits

Title (de)

Satelliten Kommunikationsanordnung mit hoch geneigten und hoch elliptischen Umlaufbahnen

Title (fr)

Système de communication par satellites utilisant des orbites hautement inclinées et elliptiques

Publication

**EP 1471664 A2 20041027 (EN)**

Application

**EP 03256975 A 20031104**

Priority

US 42374903 A 20030425

Abstract (en)

Satellite communication systems are provided that employ highly inclined, highly elliptical orbits. The satellite communication systems have a satellite constellation phased to provide a ground trace with respect to the earth that is repeated by each of the satellites in the constellation such that the satellites appear to follow one another over similar paths over the earth. Due to the path of the ground trace provided, ground stations can employ a single axis tracking device since the satellites appear to move along similar overlapping paths in opposing directions relative to a user on the ground during communication control handoffs. <IMAGE>

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CPC (source: EP US)

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